

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the application and seeks reconsideration thereof. In this response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 4. Applicants do not cancel any claims or add any new claims. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are pending.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the Examiner notes that “the replica current” in line 6 of claim 1 has insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the reference to the replica current. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection of claim 1 are requested.

Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 1 to promote clarity of the claim language. Specifically, Applicants have removed the word “its” in lines 3 and 9, and added the word “the” in lines 8 and 9. Changes to lines 3 and 4 of claim 1 are also made accordingly.

Although not mentioned by the Examiner, Applicants have also amended claim 4 to correct a typographical error. The “current mirror” in line 3 of the original claim 4 has been replaced with a “current source” to provide an antecedent basis for the references thereto in lines 5 and 7.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,710,659 issued to Teramoto (hereinafter “Teramoto”). Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

To anticipate a claim, the Examiner must show that a single reference teaches each of the elements of that claim. Claim 1 includes the elements of “a third means for maintaining a stabilized bias current by current mirror independent of changes of the control voltage,” and “to supply the stabilized bias current to the second means.” Teramoto does not teach these elements of claim 1. Rather, Teramoto teaches that the bias currents supplied to the second means vary with the control voltage. Specifically, Teramoto teaches that the bias currents (I_{A1} and I_{A2}) generated by the current mirror circuits (Q29, Q30, Q33) and (Q28, Q31, Q32) are not constant but are varied according to

the control voltage V_{AGC} (see Fig. 10 and col. 13, lines 52-53). The bias currents taught by Teramoto increases or decreases according to the relative levels of the control voltage V_{AGC} , the reference voltage V_{B1} , and the direct-current bias voltage V_{B2} (col. 7, lines 64-65, and col. 13, lines 21-45). Thus, Teramoto does not teach each of the elements of claim 1.

In regard to claims 2, 3, and 5, these claims depend from independent claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, at least for the reasons mentioned in regard to claim 1, Teramoto does not anticipate these claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 are requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 7-9.

In regard to claims 4 and 6, The Examiner indicates that these claims recite allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent on claim 1. The Examiner states that claims 4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 has obviated the need to rewrite claims 4 and 6. As claim 1 is in condition for allowance, claims 4 and 6, which depend from claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof, are allowable at least for the reasons mentioned in regard to claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of claims 4 and 6 are requested.

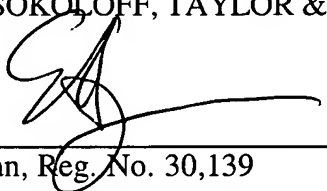
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely claims 1-9 patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 20, 2005.


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